

**Report**  
**OF THE**  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
**TO THE**  
**Rural District Council of**  
**Salisbury**

**For the year ending Dec. 31st, 1920.**



*To the Chairman and Members of the Salisbury Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the District for the year 1920.

### Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The District is of considerable extent, the area being 56,990 acres (exclusive of area covered by water). The country is undulating in character, with breezy downs and well-watered valleys.

The soil is chiefly composed of gravel and chalk, subsoil chalk throughout the district, variations occurring in the following parishes :—

*Alderbury. Clarendon, Landford and Nomansland*—Soil, gravel ; subsoil, gravel and sand.

*Laverstock and Britford*—Soft light loam ; subsoil, chalk.

*West Dean, East Grimstead and Winterslow*—Soil, chalk and clay ; subsoil, chalk.

*Downton*—Soil, soft alluvial chalk and gravel ; subsoil, chalk.

*Whiteparish*—Soil, chalk, sand and gravel ; subsoil, chalk.

The chief occupations of the residents are those concerned with agriculture. There are no specially dangerous trades in the district.

The population at the 1911 census 10,178 ; for 1920 it is estimated at 9,280 (civilian).

The amount expended in Poor Law Relief in the District during the year was £2412 13s. 3d.

### Vital Statistics.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1920 and previous years.

Year.	Estimated Population	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Nett deaths belonging to the District.	
		Nett.		No.	Rate.	Under 1 year of age.	
		No.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.
1916	9,455	170	16·5	125	13·2	7	41·1
1917	9,066	139	13·7	117	12·9	6	43·1
1918	9,216	149	13·7	127	13·7	7	46·9
1919	9,296	165	17·7	133	14·9	12	72·7
1920	9,280	219	23·59	100	10·77	9	41·09

## INFANT MORTALITY.

*1920. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.*

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week.	Total under 1 month.	1—4 months.	6—12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Bronchitis and Broncho-pneumonia ...	...	2	1	1	4
Premature Birth ...	2	2	...	...	2
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	1	...	1
Other Causes ...	1	...	1	...	2

The total number of births registered was 219, and of these 12 were illegitimate children (the birth-rate being 23·59). The birth-rate per 1,000 total population England and Wales is 25·4.

The infantile deaths (children under one year) were 9, giving an infantile death-rate of 41·09 per 1,000 births registered. The 1920 death-rate for England and Wales for children under one year is 80 per 1,000 births registered.

The total deaths occurring in the district numbered 100, giving a death-rate of 10·77.

Birth-rate per 1,000 (estimated population)	23·6
Infantile death-rate (under 1 year) ...	41·9
Zymotic death-rate ...	0
Phthisis ...	·75
Other tuberculous diseases ...	·32
Measles ...	0
Diphtheria ...	0
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	0
Influenza ...	0
Whooping Cough ...	1·10
Cancer ...	1·29
Heart Disease ...	1·40
Respiratory diseases ...	·86
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0

### Hospital Accommodation.

The Salisbury General Infirmary provides accommodation for surgical and acute medical cases of illness, and has proved of great value for such cases. There is provision at the Salisbury and District Joint Isolation Hospital, Old Sarum, for the treatment of infectious diseases. There is not at present any special hospital provision for maternity cases. Facilities are provided at the Salisbury Infirmary for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases, and are available for the district.



## Water Supply.

The water supply is chiefly derived from wells, mostly shallow, and in cases where the well covers are defective, liable to pollution. The deep wells afford a supply of excellent water. Lord Radnor's private reservoir now supplies Alderbury, Nunton, Bodenham, Odstock and West Grimstead with a constant supply of good water. At Farley there is a supply of water from a private reservoir.

There has been no case of river pollution in the District brought to the notice of the Council.

## Drainage and Sewerage.

There is no system of sewerage in any part of the District. Household slops and waste water are dealt with by means of cess-pools. Solid excreta are dealt with by earth closets, pail closets, and privies with vaults. All these are apt to cause nuisance at times. Undoubtedly the least objectionable is the pail closet.

There is no system of scavenging, and the onus of removal rests with the occupier. At Downton the sanitary conditions are unsatisfactory, and the water in some of the wells is unfit for drinking purposes.

## Closet Accommodation.

No. of Privies with open middens	...	25
„ „ covered middens	...	1600
„ Water Closets	...	55
„ Pail Closets	...	787

## Schools.

The school accommodation is good, and there are few complaints. The sanitary condition of the schools is good and water supply satisfactory. Any cases of infectious or contagious diseases are reported to the Medical Officer of Health and to the School Medical Officer, and necessary steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection. There are 21 Elementary Schools in the district.

The following schools were closed for the periods stated during the year :—

<i>Name of School.</i>	<i>Period of Closure.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>
Nomansland	26th January to 5th March	Whooping Cough
„	17th March to 31st March	„
West Dean	15th April to 23rd April	Scarlet Fever
Landford	6th May to 4th June	Measles
Redlynch	6th July to 9th July	Diphtheria
Winterslow	23rd July to 30th July	Measles
Farley	21st July to 30th July	Scarlet Fever
Britford	25th October to 12th November	Whooping Cough

It was necessary to have one school disinfected—Nomansland School.

## Milk.

The milk supply of the district is produced wholly within the area of the district, and large quantities are exported from the district by rail, though not to the same extent as 1913, some being taken to a local milk factory.

Bye-laws under the "Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act," 1886, and the "Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds Order," 1885, are in force, and are rigidly carried out.

One hundred and twenty-four dairies are registered, and have been inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

The purity of the water to the premises of those engaged in the milk trade is most important, and has received attention. Seventy-five per cent are supplied from wells, and the remainder obtain their water from private supplies.

It is important that milkers should be provided with clean overalls or aprons, soap and clean water in all dairies, as infection from the hands of milkers can only too easily be transmitted to milk. Milkers' hands should be scrupulously clean.

## Other Foods.

No of seizures of unsound meat, nil.

No. of Prosecutions, nil.

## Slaughter Houses.

	In 1914.	In Jan., 1920.	In Dec., 1920.
Registered	8	8	8
Licensed	5	5	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	8	8	8

## Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was not excessive. The diphtheria cases which occurred at Laverstock were due to a carrier case in the School. The other cases were scattered through the district.

Any illness which causes the absence of a child from school is reported to the Medical Officer of Health by the Head Master or Mistress. No notifications of pneumonia were received, although many cases must have occurred.

The contacts of patients who are admitted into hospital from diphtheria are examined, and not infrequently a carrier case is detected.

The Steam Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital is available for the disinfection of bedding and material when necessary.

There were notified 43 cases of infectious diseases :—

Scarlet Fever	...	10
Diphtheria	..	19
Ophthalmia	...	1
Erysipelas	...	1
Acute Poliomyclitis		1
Tuberculosis	...	11

Distribution as follows :—

Disease.	No.	Alderbury.	Stratford-sub-Castle.	Landford.	Laverstock.	Nomansland.	Whiteparish.	Downton.	Redlynch.	West Dean.	Farley.	Nunton.	Charlton.	Clarendon.	Bodenham.	Winterslow.	Britford.	Odstock.
Scarlet Fever	... 10	...	...	1	...	3	...	3	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	... 19	1	1	...	6	...	1	1	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...
Ophthalmia	... 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	... 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Ac. Poliomyclitis	... 1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis	... 11	...	...	1	1	...	1	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1
Total	... 43	1	1	2	7	3	3	7	4	1	3	1	2	1	1	3	2	1

### Tuberculosis.

Eleven cases were notified. Nine were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. One of these was admitted into Winsley Sanatorium, and one into Harnwood Hospital. Of the total number notified five have died and two left the district.

Enquiries are made as to family history and occupation, etc., the general conditions and surroundings noted, and advice given as to the means of preventing infection. Spitting flasks and disinfectants are provided, when necessary.

All cases are reported to the County Tuberculosis Officer, and through whom arrangements are made for the treatment most suitable for each individual case.

There is no Sanatorium in the district for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.



## Sanitary Administration.

Staff—A whole-time Sanitary Inspector is employed by the Council, who also acts as Building Surveyor and Inspector under Factories and Workshops Acts, and Cowsheds and Milk-shops Order.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases.—The Salisbury and District Joint Isolation Hospital, provided for the Amesbury, Wilton and Salisbury districts, was opened on the 12th Oct., 1912. This Hospital provides accommodation for the treatment of scarlet fever, diphtheria, erysipelas, cerebro spinal fever, enteric and puerperal fever. The Hospital contains 80 beds.

The Small-pox Hospital is also under the control of the Joint Hospital Committee, which is kept in readiness for any cases, should such arise, and has accommodation for 12 patients.

There is no laboratory for chemical and bacteriological work in the district. The Council defray the cost of the examination of material when necessary, and also provide anti-toxin and serum when required.

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## Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(*Sanitary Inspector*—MR. A. R. METHERILL, A.R.S.I.)

### Housing.

The Council have built 14 houses at West Harnham, and are building 4 houses at Charlton, and also at Downton. Tenders have been received for the erection of houses at Winterslow, Alderbury, Odstock, Landford, Nomansland.

Houses are required for the parishes of Nomansland and Downton. Some of the existing cottages at Nomansland are in a defective condition. At Downton, new houses are required in order to abate the overcrowding, especially in two cases. These cases have been reported on by the Sanitary Inspector, and the persons occupying the cottages have endeavoured to obtain other cottages, but up to the present have been unable to do so.

The principal causes of overcrowding during the year have been, first, a large family in a small cottage, and second, two families in one cottage.

#### *Fitness of Houses.*

1. (a) For a Rural District, very good ; majority are brick built.
- (b) Defects found have arisen from defective roofs and floors.
- (c) Owners receive a nominal rent, and when called upon to carry out repairs are faced with two difficulties, viz. :—difficulty in getting repairs carried out owing to scarcity of mechanics and the high cost of materials, wages, etc.



(2) *b* Fifteen cottages have been inspected at Pitton and the necessary repairs have been carried out.

Two have been re-inspected at Downton, the roof has been re-thatched in one case and notice has been served in the other case to carry out certain repairs.

One Closing Order has been served in the case of a bungalow at Nomansland.

(*v*) Building Bye-laws are in force for the erection of new houses, etc. No houses let in lodgings. There are no bye-laws in force with respect to tents, vans, sheds, etc.

#### *Sanitary Inspections of District.*

There are eight slaughter-houses. These have been frequently inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and found satisfactory. Three required cleansing. No tuberculous carcase has been found nor meat condemned.

Twenty-four bakehouses have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and found satisfactory. Some minor defects have required attention.

#### *Infectious Diseases.*

Cases enquired into	...	...	23
Houses disinfected	...	...	22

#### *Houses.*

Number erected	...	...	13
Number cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	10
Privies rectified	...	...	25
Offensive Trades inspection	...	...	6
Wells closed as polluted	...	...	0
Samples for analysis	...	...	4
Condemned	...	...	1

#### *Slaughter Houses.*

Number regularly inspected	...	...	8
Number certified for limewashing	...	...	3

#### *Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.*

Number of Inspections	...	...	124
During milking time	...	...	100
Requiring structural alterations	...	...	5

#### *Clerical Work.*

Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	0
Do.	do.	complied with	0
Do.	Informal Notices served	...	60
Do.	do.	complied with	55
Do.	do.	outstanding	5

## Nuisances.

Various complaints of nuisances were inspected and remedied. No case has required legal action.

## Housing Conditions.

*Statistics for year ended 31st December, 1920.*

### 1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	9,280
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	10·77
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	1·07
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	41·09
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	2,458
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	2,089
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	9

### 2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

#### I.—Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	18
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	18
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	7

#### II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	7
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#### III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

##### A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	7
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—		
	(a) by owners	...	7
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	nil.
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	nil.

##### B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	nil.
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—

both

(a) by owners ... .. nil.  
 (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... .. nil.

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... .. 2  
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... .. 1  
 (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... .. Closing Order still in force.  
 (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. nil.  
 (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. nil.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	6	nil.	nil.
WORKSHOPS ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	65	9	nil.
TOTAL ... ..	71	9	nil.

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects	
	Found.	Remedied.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i> Want of cleanliness ... ..	9	9



### Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakers ... ..	24
Smiths ... ..	8
Wheelwrights ... ..	4
Harness Makers ... ..	3
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..	14
Laundries ... ..	5
Others ... ..	7
Total Number of Workshops on Register ...	65

### Other Matters.

Class.	Number.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remedial under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901) :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ... ..	3
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	3

### Unhealthy Areas.

There has been no necessity for any action to be taken regarding unhealthy areas.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. GORDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*